



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

September 16, 2008

The Honorable Board of Directors
Los Angeles County
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE SPECIFIED EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO
THE FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT TO
THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY AND AUTHORIZE AWARD
AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXCESS FUNDS GRANT TO THE CITY OF
GLENDALE FOR THE LEMESNAGER BARN PROJECT
(FIFTH DISTRICT – 3 VOTE MATTER)**

SUBJECT

These actions will allocate \$425,000 in Specified Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District to enable the City of Glendale to complete the seismic retrofit and rehabilitation of the LeMesnager Barn in Deukmejian Wilderness Park. When completed, the barn will function as a multi-purpose community room.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find the proposed actions exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, for the reasons cited herein.
2. Allocate Specified Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District in the amount of \$425,000 to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Authority for the LeMesnager Barn Rehabilitation Project.

3. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to award a grant to the City of Glendale, after the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy assigns the right to apply for funds to the City, when applicable conditions have been met, and to administer the grant as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified and Per Parcel Projects.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approval of the recommendations will allocate \$425,000 in Specified Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) to fund the LeMesnager Barn Rehabilitation Project. The SMMC, which is the designated recipient of Specified Excess Funds for projects in the Santa Monica Mountains and the San Fernando Valley and San Gabriel Valley foothills under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), will assign the right to apply for the funds to the City of Glendale (City).

The LeMesnager Barn Rehabilitation Project consists of the seismic retrofit and rehabilitation of the historic LeMesnager Barn in Deukmejian Wilderness Park located at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains in the City of Glendale. The stone barn, constructed between 1914 and 1918, is of historical significance as a relatively rare example of a two-story vernacular rock structure. Upon completion of the rehabilitation project, the barn will serve as a multi-purpose community room for uses including nature education, lectures, classroom sessions, interpretive exhibits, and meetings. The total cost of the project is \$1,445,000, which includes \$425,000 of available Fifth District Specified Excess Funds and \$1,020,000 of grant funds from the SMMC.

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. The SMMC and the City have met this requirement.

It is also recommended that the Director of Parks and Recreation be authorized to award a grant to the City, when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications and consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, as well as grantee agreement with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project, and to administer the grant under procedures previously approved by your Board.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goal No. 1 (Service Excellence), Goal No. 4 (Fiscal Responsibility), Goal No. 5 (Children and Families' Well-being), and Goal No. 6 (Community Services), by allocating Excess Funds for enhanced recreational and educational opportunities at a historic site in Deukmejian Wilderness Park in Glendale in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grant in the amount of \$425,000 is budgeted in the Fifth Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grant would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District for highest priority regional open space and recreation projects including projects in the Santa Monica Mountains and the San Fernando Valley and San Gabriel Valley foothills.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of Parks and Recreation would be authorized to award a grant when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

Your Board approved a Procedural Guide on June 17, 1997, to govern the administration of Regional Park and Open Space District grants for Specified and Per Parcel projects. This Procedural Guide would appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grant as well.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director of Parks and Recreation and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 1997. The Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended project will provide additional recreation and educational opportunities in the City of Glendale in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District are required to comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The City of Glendale is the lead agency for the LeMesnager Barn Rehabilitation Project.

The proposed administrative actions are not subject to CEQA in that the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Sections 15378 (b)(4)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, because the actions are administrative activities for government grants which by their terms do not involve any commitments to any specific projects which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

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CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one conformed copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects Division, and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", written in a cursive style.

Russ Guiney
Director, Parks and Recreation

RG:IV:LB:REGIONALPARKANDOPENSPOCEDISTRICT(GLENDALE BARN BL)

c: Chief Executive Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors (22)
County Counsel